

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended. Claims 1-22 remain in this application.

Reconsideration of claims 1-22 of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Final Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,372,901 to Partain, III et al. (hereinafter “Partain III et al”). Applicant has amended claims 1 and 15 and now traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

The Examiner states that Partain III et al disclose “aqueous coating compositions comprising hydroxyethylcellulose thickener, propylene glycol and latex binder” (at column 13 line 55 to column 14, line 62). The cited example discloses a typical latex composition comprising a pigment grind of dry raw materials with the subsequent addition of liquid raw materials such as crude thickener, crude propylene glycol, binder and water. These typical pigment grinds are stirred for a long time until the required percentage of solids and degree of dispersion is achieved. The mixed grind is then held in storage tanks with a high degree of agitation occurring in the tanks to prevent the titanium dioxide pigments and other solids from settling.

The Applicants’ invention, on the other hand, claims a coating composition comprising preformulated liquid blend raw material slurries, such as titanium dioxide slurries, extender slurries, etc. Each of the liquid blend raw materials are preformulated to have a predetermined viscosity similar to the final coating composition product. All other liquid blend raw materials, including additives to the formulation, particularly those with narrow compatibility tolerances, such as thickeners, organic solvents, and powders, are likewise preformulated and pre-dispersed in a liquid slurry and preformulated prior to addition to a final coating composition to obtain the desired viscosity characteristics.

Additionally, due to the non-settling nature of the slurries of this invention, high agitation is not required. In contrast to a conventional latex process where a large number of raw materials are utilized, and adjustments to pH, viscosity, etc. are required, the process of the present

invention minimizes the number of raw materials required due to consolidation of raw material components in a liquid blend.

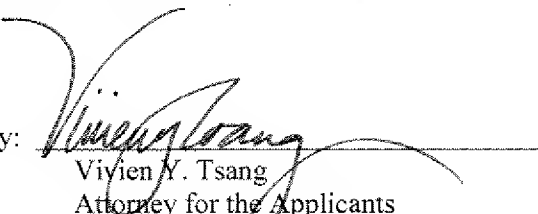
Thus, Partain III et al does not describe each and every element in Applicants' claims 1-22. Specifically, Partain III et al does not teach the required elements of the waterborne coating composition comprising preformulated liquid blend raw materials of a titanium dioxide slurry, an extender pigment slurry, a thickener slurry, a glycol slurry and at least one latex binder. Partain III et al also does not teach preparing a waterborne coating composition comprising admixing a plurality of preformulated liquid blend raw materials. Therefore, claims 1 and 15 are not anticipated by Partain III et al. Accordingly, because claims 2-14 and 16-22 are dependent from claims 1 and 15, respectively, these claims are also not anticipated by Partain III et al. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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